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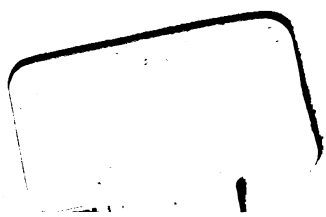
Wisconsin. State Board of Control.
Catechism of Wisconsin institutions.
Compiled by Gustav Kustermann, member
of State Board of Control, 1904.



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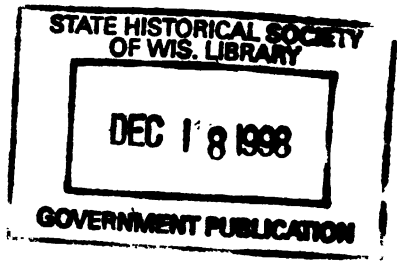

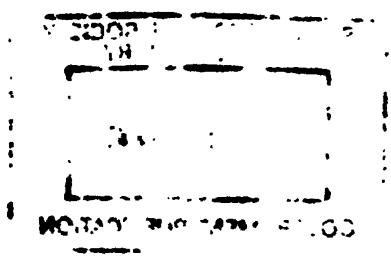

CATECHISM

OF

Wisconsin Institutions

COMPILED BY

GUSTAV KÜSTERMANN,

Member of State Board of Control.

CATECHISM

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MADISON

PUBLISHED BY STATE BOARD OF CONTROL

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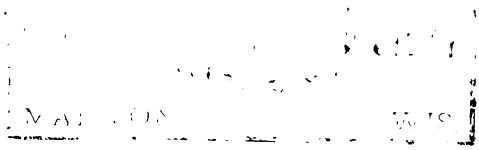

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

Where located? At Janesville.

When established? In the year 1850.

What is its object? To give to the blind and those partly blind a good school education and to instruct them in various practical branches, so as to enable them to earn a living after leaving school.

What is being taught in this school? All branches usually taught in the common school, also vocal and instrumental music, piano tuning, weaving carpets, making brooms, nets, hammocks, caning chairs and doing all kinds of house and needle work. Instructions in physical culture are given in a finely equipped gymnasium.

What charge is made for attending this school? Tuition, board, lodging, fuel and washing are furnished free to all pupils residing in Wisconsin, while a charge of not exceeding $100 per year is made to non-residents. Clothing and railroad fare are to be furnished by the pupil's parents or guardians.

How much schooling is given each year? Forty weeks of schooling, followed by a vacation of 12 weeks to be spent by the pupils at their homes.

What is the average attendance? One hundred and eleven pupils during the last year.

What is the yearly expense of this school to the State? About $35,000.

To whom should application for admission be made? To the Superintendent of the School for the Blind, Janesville, Wis.

While pupils of school age (between 8 and 21) are admitted at any time during the year, it is advisable to have them start at the commencement of school (second Wednesday in September).

How many acres of land are connected with the institution? Sixty-five acres.

What amount has so far been spent by the State for real estate, buildings and improvements? About $230,000.

SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

Where located? At Delavan.

When established? In the year 1852.

What is its object? To give to the deaf children of our State a good school education and to teach them such lines of handiwork as may enable them to earn a livelihood in future years.

What is being taught at the school? Speaking, lip-reading, all common school branches, printing and type-setting, drawing, cabinet-work, forging, shoe-making, etc. In the domestic department the girls are instructed in the discharge of various household duties, such as cooking, baking and sewing. To promote the health of the children, much attention is given to gymnastic exercises.

What constitutes a school year? Forty weeks, from September to June, the balance of the year being spent by the children at their homes.

What charge is made for attending this school? None to residents of Wisconsin. Only clothing and railroad fare are to be furnished by the relatives of the pupil.

What was the average attendance in 1903? Two hundred and two pupils.

What is the average yearly expense to the State? About $47,000.

How many acres of land are connected with the institution? Thirty-two acres.

What has been the total expense for buildings, real e tate, etc. About $150,000.

To whom should application for admission be made? the Superintendent of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, De van, Wis.

Is the State school the only place in Wisconsin whe deaf children are instructed? No. There are schools f the deaf in a number of cities in Wisconsin, such schools r ceiving from the State $150 per year for each child attendi the same.

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL, SPARTA.

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

Where located? At Sparta.

When established? In the year 1886.

What is its object? To care for and educate physically, intellectually and morally, orphans and such dependent or neglected children as may be placed therein until homes can be found for them in good families.

At what age are children admitted and by what authority? Children up to 14 years of age, commitment to be made by a probate judge.

What branches are taught in this school? Kindergarten, reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, singing, cooking, sewing and farming.

Where are the children kept? In cottages, separating the babies, ages and sexes.

What procedure is necessary to procure a child from this school? Application is made to the Superintendent of the State Public School at Sparta, Wis., who will furnish a blank to be filled out by the applicant and to be endorsed by two county officers or other respectable citizens. If the opportunities offered to the child are found satisfactory, an agent is sent to the parties for further investigation. On finding the people, the home, the school facilities, etc., as certified to in application, the child is selected by the superintendent or by the parties themselves, particular attention being paid to the religion of the child and those receiving the same. In the contract then signed the party taking the child agrees to pay

the sum of $50 on its 18th birthday, the money to be held b the State until the child becomes of age.

Who sees to it that the child in its new home is we cared for? All the children placed in homes, now numberin about ten hundred, are visited several times every year b trusty State agents, who are authorized to take a child awa if not cared for according to agreement. Aside from th reports regarding the child's health, conduct, etc., must b sent monthly to the superintendent by those having it i charge.

May the child be adopted by the foster-parents? It may as soon as the Board of Control, through its agents, become convinced that the child is in good hands and no further supe vision required.

What was the average attendance of the school in 1903 One hundred and forty-seven.

What does it cost the State yearly, including the ex pense of finding homes and looking after the childre that are placed in homes? About $42.000.

How much has so far been invested in real estate, com prising 165 acres, buildings and permanent improve ments? About $175,000.

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL, A PORTION OF CHILDREN'S DINING ROOM AT DINNER TIME.

While pupils of school age (between 8 and 21) are admitted at any time during the year, it is advisable to have them start at the commencement of school (second Wednesday in September).

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May the child be adopted by the foster-parents? It may, as soon as the Board of Control, through its agents, becomes convinced that the child is in good hands and no further supervision required.

What was the average attendance of the school in 1903? One hundred and forty-seven.

What does it cost the State yearly, including the expense of finding homes and looking after the children that are placed in homes? About $42.000.

How much has so far been invested in real estate, comprising 165 acres, buildings and permanent improvements? About $175,000.

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL, A PORTION OF CHILDREN'S DINING ROOM AT DINNER TIME.

STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, MENDOTA.

NORTHERN HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, WINNEBAGO.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ASYLUM, WAUWATOSA.

INSTITUTIONS FOR CARE OF INSANE.

How many institutions of this kind are there in the State? Thirty-three, two State institutions and thirty-one county asylums.

Where are the State institutions located and when established? The Wisconsin State Hospital for the Insane is located at Mendota, near Madison, and was first opened for patients in 1860. The Northern Hospital for the Insane at Winnebago, near Oshkosh, was erected in the year 1873.

How many acres of land are connected with the State hospitals? Four hundred and ninety-seven acres with the State hospital and 430 acres with the Northern.

How much has been expended in these institutions for real estate, buildings and permanent improvements? About $650,000 for the State hospital and $850,000 for the Northern.

What counties in the State have asylums for the care of insane? Brown, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Dunn, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marathon, Milwaukee (2), Outagamie, Racine, Richland, Rock, St. Croix, Sauk, Sheboygan, Trempealeau, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca and Winnebago.

To whom should application for admission be made? To the probate judge of the county in which the person alleged to be insane resides, the application to be signed by three respectable citizens. If after examination by two physicians, who must have been practicing for at least three years, the judge becomes convinced that the person is insane, he causes such

person to be sent to one of the state hospitals, there to be treated and cared for until he regains his health or until he is pronounced chronic, in which latter case he is transferred to one of the county asylums. Insane persons in Milwaukee are first committed to the Milwaukee Hospital for the Insane and, if found chronic, transferred to the Milwaukee County Asylum for Chronic Insane.

Who bears the expense of keeping the insane? If the patient possesses any property or if those legally bound to support such a patient are able to pay the entire or part of the expense of keeping him or her, the district attorney of the respective county is held to collect such amounts. Otherwise the State bears the expense of keeping the patient in the State hospitals, requiring, however, from the county from which the person has been committed the payment of $1.50 weekly and the furnishing of all necessary clothing. The county asylum receives from the State $1.50 per week for each patient kept there, if not paid for by the estate of the patient or his relatives, and an additional $1.50 per week and clothing for all patients sent there from outside counties.

What is being done for patients in the State Hospitals and the Milwaukee Hospital? They are under constant treatment by a number of expert physicians, they receive wholesome food and are properly clothed. Daily walks and exercise, electric and shower baths, dancing and various entertainments, singing, instruction in several school branches, and work such as they are able to perform are important factors in the treatment of the patients.

What care do the patients receive at the county asylums? They are well fed and clothed, have regular baths, exercise, good beds and kind treatment. The steady employment of those who are able to work, either on the farm or around the house, seems to have a wholesome effect on the health of the patient. Dances and entertainments are given from time to time. The county physician is obliged to visit the asylum and examine the patients at least twice a week; also respond promptly to every call from the superintendent.

What was the number of patients in the State Hospital at Mendota on the date of last report? Four hundred and sixteen.

How many at the Northern Hospital? Six hundred and fourteen.

How many at the Milwaukee Hospital? Five hundred and fifteen.

How many at the county asylums? Three thousand six hundred and thirty.

What is the total number of insane in our State? Five thousand one hundred and seventy-five.

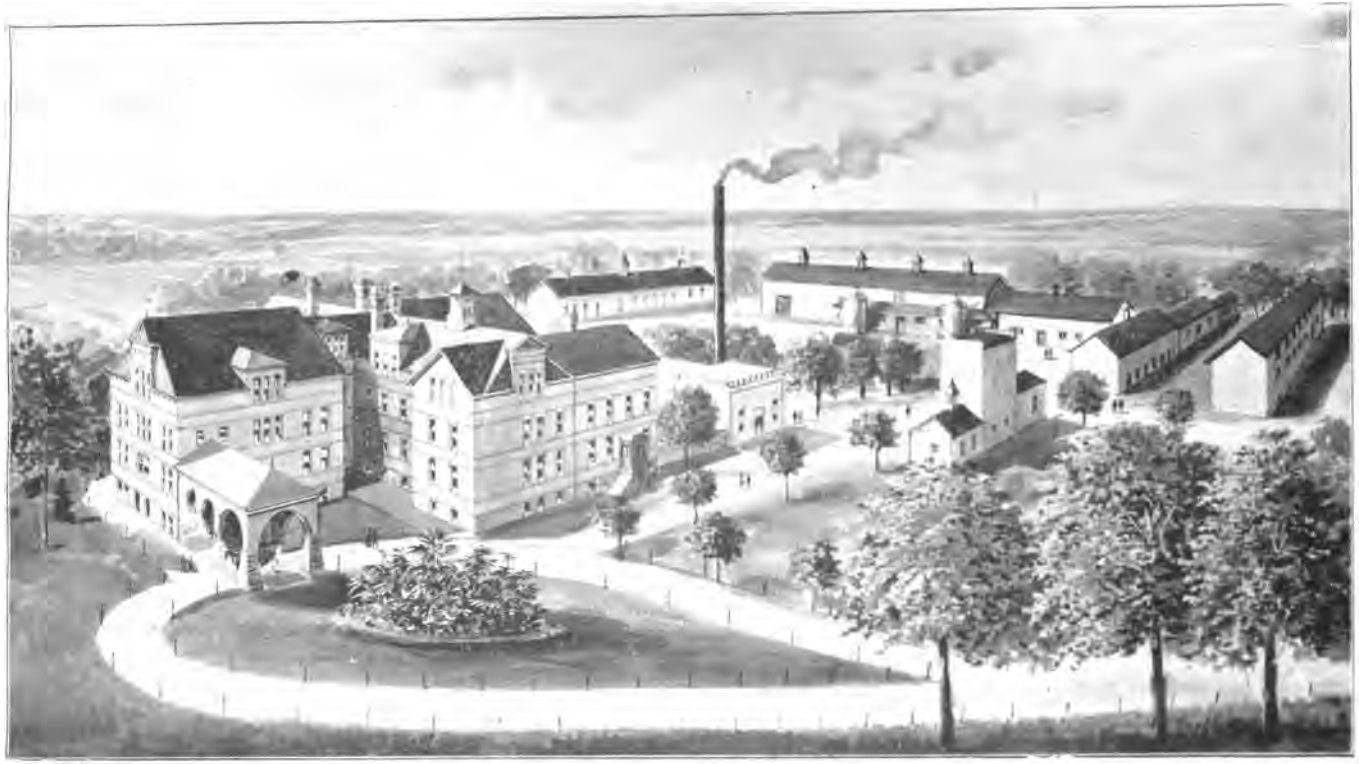
How many of each sex? 2,911 male and 2,264 female patients.

What is the ratio of insanity to population of State? One insane person in every 400.

What was the total expense of caring for the insane in one year? About $710,000.

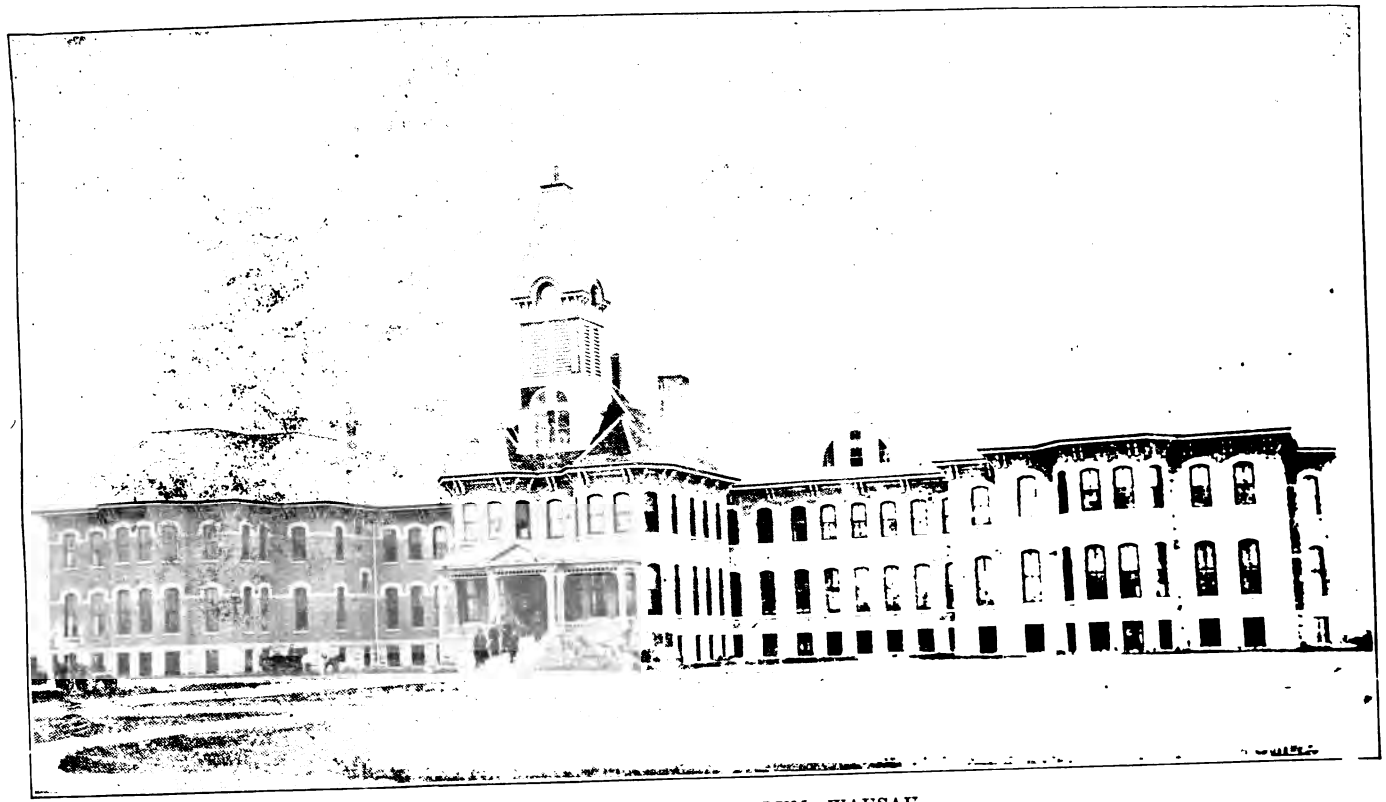
What part of this was borne by the counties? $95,269.71.

MILWAUKEE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, WAUWATOSA.



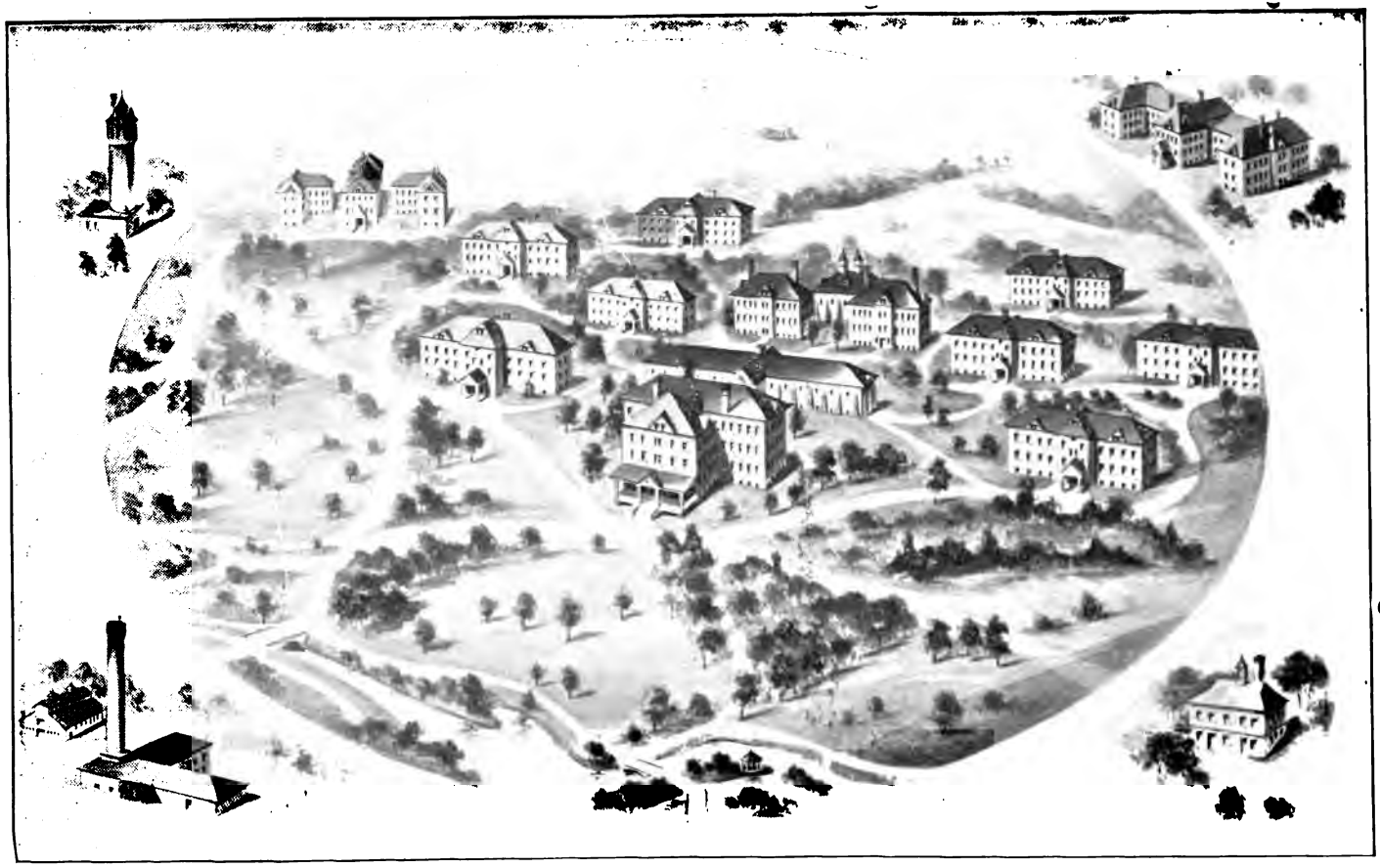
MANITOWOC COUNTY ASYLUM, MANITOWOC.

LA CROSSE COUNTY ASYLUM, WEST SALEM.



MARATHON COUNTY ASYLUM, WAUSAU.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY ASYLUM.



HOME FOR FEEBLE MINDED, CHIPPEWA FALLS.

HOME FOR FEEBLE MINDED.

Where located? At Chippewa Falls.

When established? In 1895.

What is its object? To keep in custody, to protect against evil influences, to care for and train all feeble minded, epileptic and idiotic persons committed to this institution.

To whom should application for admission be made? To the probate judge of any county, the application to be signed by three respectable citizens, or made by the supervisor of a town, city, village or ward. If upon examination by two physicians, the person is found to be feeble minded, the necessary papers for admission to the Home are executed by the judge.

Who bears the expense for maintenance and clothing? If the person who becomes an inmate of the Home has no personal estate or if his relatives or guardians are not able to pay for his maintenance, the county in which he has resided is obliged to pay $1.50 per week for board, and $30 per year for clothing.

What will be the capacity of the Home when completed? It will furnish room for 1,000 persons, and will be the largest of all State institutions, comprising 1,021 acres of land and about 20 buildings.

Are the inmates classified? Those of nearly the same grade of intelligence form families of about thirty-five members each, kept entirely separate from other grades. Two general divisions are made, custodial and school cases, the former re-

quiring constant care and the latter receiving instruction in school and industrial branches.

What is being taught to those children who are able to learn? All the common school branches, singing, working on the farm, in the garden, in the shoe and carpenter shop, laundry, also sewing, knitting, embroidering and household work. Some of the feeble minded boys and girls have been instructed to play on various instruments and are doing good work in the Home band.

Are most of the cases hereditary? About 60 per cent., while the others are due to accidental causes. Among the hereditary cases there are frequently three to five from one family.

What clothing must be sent along with the person to be admitted? 1 overcoat, cloak or cape, 1 hat or cap, 2 suits of clothes or 2 dresses, 3 handkerchiefs, 3 complete suits of underclothing, skirts and other necessary garments for females, 4 pairs of socks or stockings and 1 pair of good shoes.

How many physicians are employed? Two, they being assisted by a number of nurses.

In case of death, who bears the expense of the burial? If not paid by the relatives who are immediately notified, the county from which such person has been committed is charged with the expense; however, not exceeding $20.

How many inmates are at the Home at present? About 700.

What is the estimated expense of running this institution with its present greatly increased population? About $125,000 per year, of which about $48,000 will be borne by the counties from which inmates were sent.

How much has so far been expended for real estate, buildings and permanent improvements? About $500,000.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS, WAUKESHA.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

Where located? At Waukesha.

When established? In 1860.

What is its object? To keep, instruct and reform all male children between the ages of 10 and 18 years who may have been committed thereto as vagrants, for incorrigible or vicious conduct or on conviction of any minor criminal offense.

By whom are they committed? By a county, municipal, circuit judge, or justice of peace, provided, however, that no child shall be committed as vagrant or incorrigible until one of the supervisors of the town or the superintendent of the poor has been notified and consulted.

How long are they to remain in the institution or under the surveillance of the school authorities? Until they are 21 years of age. As soon as their conduct in school merits it, they are paroled to their homes (if such are found to be the proper places for them) or to other responsible parties. In every case quarterly reports as to the boy's health, conduct, etc., must be sent to the superintendent, and an agent employed by the State calls on all the paroled boys every three months, returning them to the school if necessary.

What is being taught at the school? Strict obedience and discipline, cleanliness, love of work, all common school branches, singing, manual training, metal and wood working, tailoring, shoemaking, knitting, laundry work, farming and gardening. Four hours each day are devoted to school work, four hours to the trades and industries, and the balance to enjoyment, such as reading, playing games, marching to the strains of the excellent school band, etc.

What remedy has the superintendent if the boy's conduct is detrimental to the discipline of the school? If ordinary punishment fails, he can have him transferred to the Reformatory or State Prison upon application to the Board of Control.

How much do the counties pay for the boys they commit to this school? One dollar each per week.

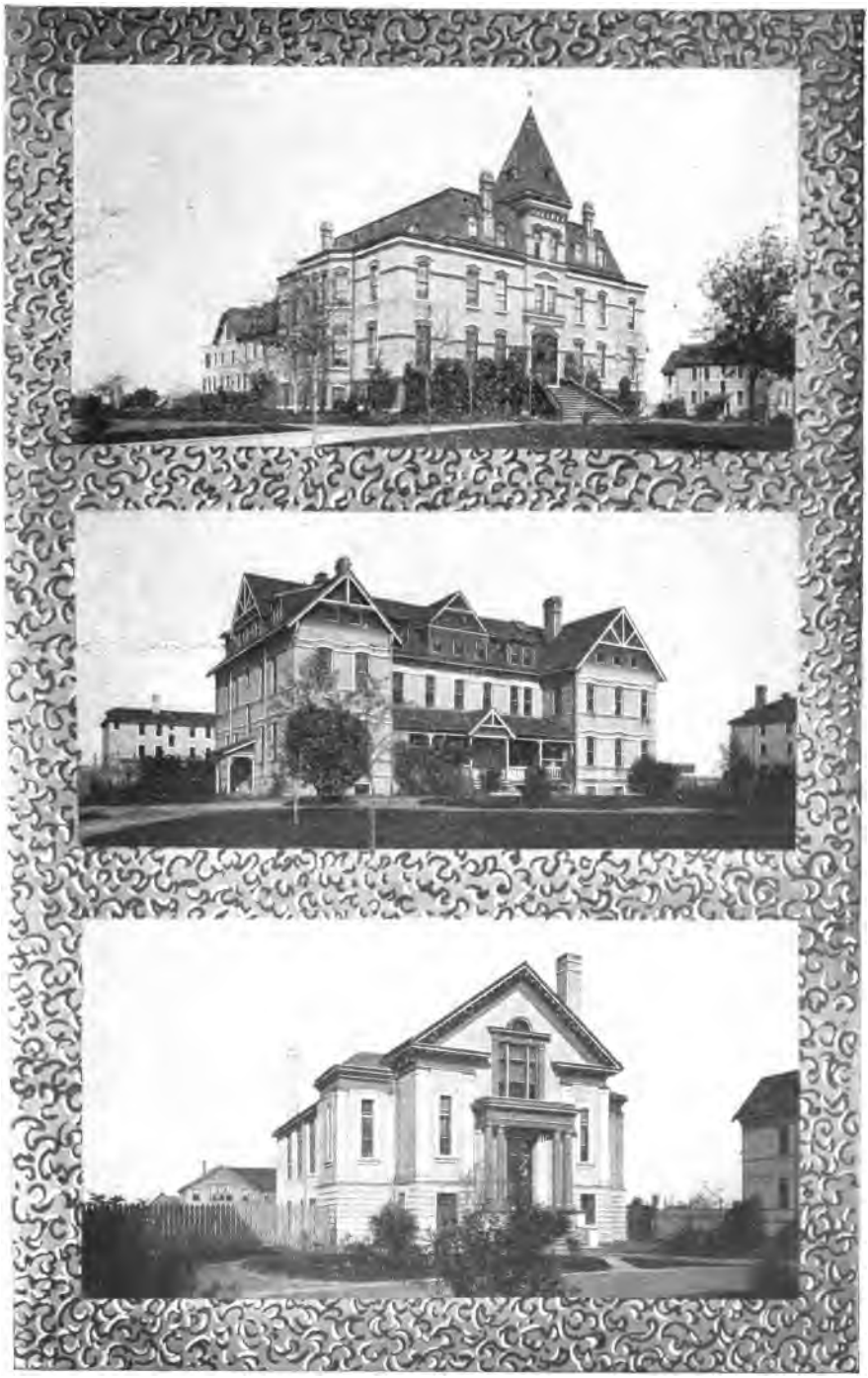
How much land is connected with this school? Four hundred acres.

What is the average population of the school? About 300 at the school and 500 out on parole.

What is the expense to the State? About $60,000 per year.

What has been accomplished by this school? While it is impossible to follow the record of every boy who attended the school, sufficient data is at hand to show that of the 5,129 boys committed to the school since it was opened, about 70 per cent. have mended their ways and become good and useful citizens.

How much has so far been invested in buildings, real estate, etc.? About $325,000.



INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, MILWAUKEE.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

Where situated? At Milwaukee.

When established? In 1875.

By whom? By a number of ladies and gentlemen who saw the necessity of such an institution. While the State has since expended over $200,000 for buildings, improvements, stock and furnishings and holds a title to all the property, the school still remains in the hands of the original private corporation, under the supervision of a self-perpetuating board of managers.

What is the object of the school? To care for, instruct and properly train and bring up the girls committed to the institution by a probate or municipal judge or justice of the peace. Proper subjects for this school are girls under 18 years of age, who are beggars, vagrants or wanderers, or are destitute because of orphanage or abandonment, having a parent undergoing imprisonment or otherwise without means of support. Also girls less than 18 years old who are vicious and unruly or are found in danger of falling into habits of vice.

What is being taught in this school? Strict discipline, the art of keeping busy, cleanliness and neatness—all ordinary school branches, house work of every description, sewing, dressmaking, millinery, knitting and embroidering.

How long are the girls kept at the school? Until they have learned what is useful for them to know in their future ives and until their conduct and sense of honor is such as to llow their paroling to good families. In this case a visitor ployed by the school calls on them from time to time, and

reports are sent to the school every three months. Thus they are kept under supervision or at the school until 21 years of age.

What is accomplished by this school? According to a late report of the visitor, out of 100 girls, 47 were doing well, 23 fairly well, 10 became married, and the conduct of the balance was unsatisfactory.

How many girls have been committed to the school since it was established? One thousand nine hundred and forty-one.

How many are there at present? About two hundred and twenty-five.

How much is charged to the counties for girls committed to this school? Two dollars and fifty cents per week for each one.

How are the girls graded? According to their age and the cause of their commitment, the different grades being kept entirely separate in five different buildings, the latest erected being called the "Honor Home," in which is kept a family of girls who have attained the honor grade and are preparing to leave on parole.

When paroled, have the girls the free use of all the money they earn? They account for all expenditures, and the money not used for necessaries is sent to the school and deposited to their credit, to be kept for them until they become of age.

What is the expense of running this school? About $35,000 per year.

SCHOOL ROOM, INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

STATE REFORMATORY.

Where located? At Green Bay.

When established? In the year 1897.

What is its object? To reform and return to society, in the shortest time possible, young men who, through ignorance, bad environments, poor training or naturally vicious habits, have committed some offense against the law. The main purpose of the institution is not to punish them for their crimes, but to correct their evil and criminal tendencies so that they will become good, industrious and useful citizens.

Who may be committed thereto? Any male person between the age of 16 and 30 who is the **first time** convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment in the State prison or in a county jail for a term of one year or more, with the exception of those that are found guilty of murder in the first, second or third degree. Inmates of the Industrial School for Boys may also, if found unmanageable, be transferred to the Reformatory after reaching the age of 16.

Are the sentences for a definite time? Only in a very few cases. Most of them are for an indeterminate period—not less than six months and within the limits of imprisonment prescribed by law for the offense of which convicted. The general sentence to the State Reformatory is substantially as follows: "You are sentenced to the Wisconsin State Reformatory for a general or indeterminate term not less than ——— years (such minimum for the offense) and not more than ——— years (the maximum)."

How are the inmates graded! When entering the Reformatory, an inmate is placed in the second grade, from which —according to his conduct—he can within six months advance to the first grade or at any time be lowered to the third grade.

On what conditions may an inmate be paroled? After sustaining 12 months of good record, doing satisfactory work in the school and industrial branches and gaining the confidence of the superintendent. When these conditions are fulfilled and *the minimum term of sentence has expired*, employment will be found for him by the superintendent, or by friends, and a contract entered into with the employer, binding him to watch over the person paroled to him, to report monthly as to his conduct, his work and his expenses, and to remit the amount not required for necessaries to the superintendent of the Reformatory to be kept for the inmate until the time of parole has expired and a release granted by the Governor.

What methods are employed to reform an inmate and eventually make him a good and useful citizen? He is made to obey the rules of the institution, is held under strict discipline, given a good schooling in all common branches; is taught industrious, honest and regular habits, and given employment in some branch of industry.

At what different industries are the inmates employed? Tailoring, shoe-making, making brooms, farming, gardening, carpenter and mason work, brick manufacturing, painting, plumbing, electric engineering, etc.

What recreation is furnished to them? Military drill, gymnastic exercises and games are frequently indulged in. Lectures and entertainments are given from time to time, often by the inmates themselves. Religious services are held in the chapel every Sunday. For reading matter, they are supplied with magazines, periodicals and books from the library. A good brass band, composed of inmates under the direction of a professional bandmaster, furnishes music for many occasions.

Do the inmates receive any remuneration? For each day's perfect performance of duty, those in the first grade re-

ceive 13 cents; second grade 10 cents and third grade 5 cents. Aside from this a small allowance is made for any work done above the regular task—many of the inmates thus earning from $5 to $10 monthly. Some of the inmates have accumulated from $100 to $200 to give them a new start in life.

Have the results of the reform system been satisfactory? The number of those who have fallen back into their old habits has been very small. The great majority have been benefited and are leading honorable lives. Of the paroled inmates, 77 per cent. remained faithful to their obligations.

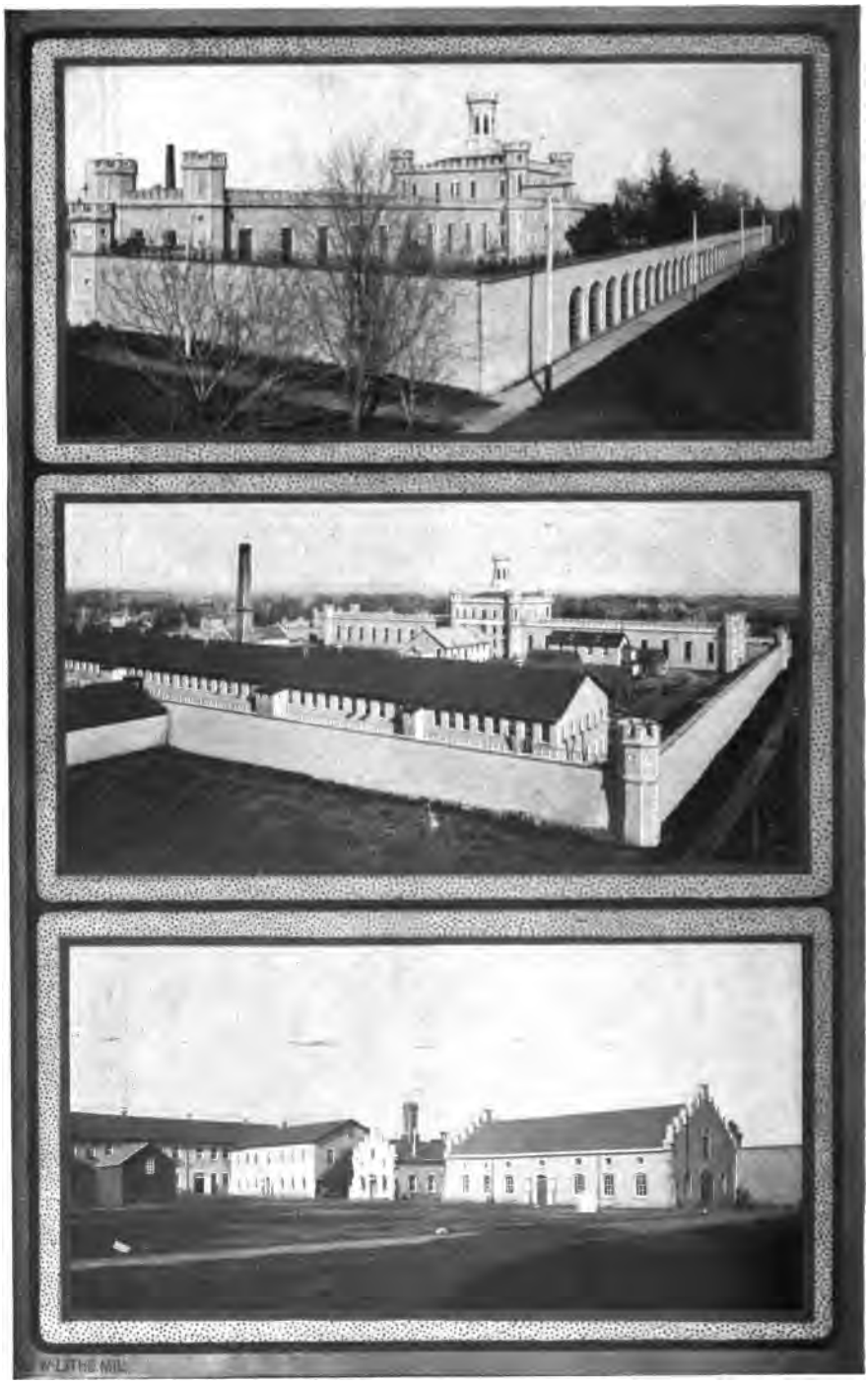
What is the number of inmates at the present time? Two hundred and eight.

What is the net expense of this institution to the State? About $35,000 per year.

What amount has so far been invested in real estate and buildings? About $175,000.

How many acres of land are connected with the institution? Two hundred and thirty-eight acres.

What are the cash revenues of the institution from the profitable industries now carried on? Between $25,000 and $30,000 per annum, and continually increasing.



STATE PRISON, WAUPUN.

STATE PRISON.

Where located? At Waupun.

When established? In the year 1851.

What is its purpose? To punish and, if possible, reform all offenders against the laws that may be committed thereto.

In what does the punishment consist? In obligating the inmates to strictly obey the rigid prison rules, such as rising at 6:00 o'clock in the morning and going to bed at 9:00 in the evening, doing the work assigned to them without a murmur, not speaking to anyone without permission from an officer, having all letters written by them (except those addressed to members of the board of control or to the governor) examined, also all letters received by them, bathing when commanded to do so, dressing according to instructions, sitting with folded arms when out of work and at the dinner table when not eating—in fact carrying out all commands of the officers in charge. Disobedience, insolence, unwillingness to work, are punished by placing the prisoner in a solitary cell and giving him bread and water instead of the regular meals.

Are the prisoners graded according to their conduct? On entering the prison they are placed in the first grade, remaining there while fully complying with the rules, and enjoying the following privileges: One ration of tobacco every week, to be used in the cell after dinner and in the evening; visits from friends once in four weeks; permission to write letters twice a month; to receive weekly newspapers and periodicals, approved by the warden; to read library books; permission to

receive on holidays, from friends, a package of not more than six pounds, containing fruits or nuts, reading matter, photographs of relatives, suspenders, brushes, chewing gum, handkerchiefs, or wooden tobacco pipes.

In the second grade, in which prisoners are placed for disorderly conduct, etc., the privileges are limited to writing one letter per month and permission to draw one book from the library every two weeks.

In the third grade, in which prisoners are placed for repeated misconduct or other grave offenses, all privileges are cut off, no light allowed in the cell and no communication with outside friends except in case of sickness.

What redress has a prisoner if he thinks that injustice has been done to him by an officer? He may make complaint by letter to the board of control, without fear of punishment or disclosure of name, or he may appear in person before the board at its quarterly meetings at the State prison.

What time is charged up for misconduct? Five days for first offense, ten days for second, and twenty days for each subsequent offense.

What time is deducted from sentence for good conduct and faithful performance of duty? Six month sentence reduced to five months and fifteen days.

One year sentence reduced to eleven months.

Two-year sentence reduced to one year and nine months.

Three-year sentence reduced to two years and six months.

Five-year sentence reduced to three years and nine months.

Eight-year sentence reduced to five years and three months.

Ten-year sentence reduced to six years and three months.

Fifteen-year sentence reduced to eight years and nine months.

Twenty-year sentence reduced to eleven years and three months.

Twenty-five-year sentence reduced to thirteen years and nine months.

Thirty-year sentence reduced to sixteen years and three months.

Of what do their meals consist? Of plain, but wholesome food, generally meat twice a day.

What schooling do the prisoners receive, and what is done for them in the way of recreation? Those who lack in education (according to the last report, there were but 28 among the 582 that could not read or write) receive instructions in common school branches three evenings in the week. Religious services are held in the prison chapel every Sunday, and entertainments given from time to time.

What is done for sick prisoners? The prison physician determines whether it is necessary to place them in the hospital, which is roomy, well ventilated, has good beds, experienced attendants, and is fitted up with all modern appliances.

What is done in case of death of a prisoner? The remains are turned over to the relatives of the convict, if demanded by them within twenty-four hours after receiving notice. Otherwise the body is given a decent burial in the prison cemetery.

How are the prisoners employed? The main industry is knitting socks, in which about 300 prisoners are employed; others work in the tailor shop, on the farm, in the kitchen, dining room and laundry, in the hospital, engine room, carpenter shop, library, etc.

What wages do they receive? Three cents per day during the first year, one cent per day thereafter.

What does a prisoner receive when leaving the prison? A complete suit, the accumulated wages and a ticket to the place he was convicted from, or an equal distance in any other direction.

How many inmates are at the prison at the present time? Five hundred and sixty-six male and 11 female.

How many life prisoners? Eighty.

What is the net expense of the prison to the State? About $50,000 per year.

What has been expended for buildings, real estate, etc., since the prison was organized? About $500,000.

What are the cash revenues of the prison from the industries now carried on? About $65,000 per year.

How many acres of land are connected with the prison? One hundred and sixty-eight acres.

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